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Suit Aimed At Blocking Tract Plans

Court action aimed at blocking development of industrial sites by William Zeckendorf Sr. and others was initiated in Dallas Tuesday soon after the deal for the land, in east Tarrant County, was completed.

Milton L. Stern of Toronto, Canada, filed a suit seeking a temporary restraining order against the development in 95th District Court. He bases his suit on contention that he has a previous agreement with Zeckendorf under which he was to have been a partner in the venture.

'No Obligation.'

A hearing on the petition has been set for 9:30 a. m. Jan. 20. At that time defendants are to show cause why the order should not be issued.

Zeckendorf, who returned to New York Monday and left his son, William Zeckendorf Jr., in charge of closing the land purchase deal for him, told the Star-Telegram in a telephone conversation that "we have no moral or legal obligation to the man whatsoever."

Asked if there is any agreement hanging fire in connection with Stern, Zeckendorf stated "there is no commitment that we didn't meet — he has no right whatsoever."

Zeckendorf said he expected the suit to be filed.

Options Claimed.

In addition to Zeckendorf Sr., defendants named in Stern's petition are Zeckendorf Jr. and four Dallas men, Angus G. Wynne Jr., president of the firm to be organized to operate the development; Toddie Lee Wynne Sr., Jack Barr Jr., a construction firm executive, and A. W. Walker Jr., a lawyer.

Stern stated in his petition that

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SUIT AIMED

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he obtained options on some of the land within the limits of the proposed development Sept. 15, 1955, and he had asked Webb & Knapp to join him in the venture. The petition also states he received a letter of intention from Zeckendorf Sr. Oct. 5, 1955.

Stern told the Star-Telegram he held either title, contracts or options on a total of 3,081 acres, which he had planned to place with additional acreage to bring the total up to around 6,000 acres.

He said he had started on plans for the development and the plans announced by Zeckendorf Sr. are like those he had initiated.

Stern declared he and Zeckendorf never had a written contract but that he considered a letter of intention binding. He asserted that the agreement with Zeckendorf Sr. provided that neither one would enter into a development competition within an eight-mile radius of the other.

Zeckendorf declared "we never made a deal with him," and expressed wonder at Stern's claims in connection with the property bought Tuesday.

Head of Firms.

Stern, who said he was born in Cleveland, Ohio, came to Texas when he was three and graduated from Carrizo Springs High School and the University of Texas, said he is in the business of industrial leaseholds. He said he is president of Texas Industrial Ventures, Inc., North American Corporation Consultants, Ltd., and World Wide Leaseholds, Ltd.

In answer to questions about his next move, Stern said he felt damaged by Zeckendorf's announcement of the 3-D Ranch purchase.

Meanwhile, Angus Wynne Sr. said Stern's suit "absolutely will not" have any effect on the status of plans for the development. He expressed the belief the court will find "he doesn't have a leg to stand on."

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